

Price, Richard

From: Mark Marschall <marschalls@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 5:18 PM
To: pstestimony
Cc: Sen. Kissel, John A.
Subject: Senate Bill 1090

Dear Connecticut State Legislators:

I am troubled by Bill 1090 and the possibility that more casinos will be built in Connecticut. I find it difficult to understand why our state public servants want to build more casinos. Is it because more casinos are being built in adjacent states like the new casino being built in Springfield, MA? Is it because the casinos we now have in Connecticut and owned by private parties are losing money to the competition? Is it because more and more people in Connecticut are looking for places to gamble? Or, is it that the State of Connecticut sees a threat of losing revenue that comes in from the casinos in our state?

I can only share my personal thoughts but I have real problems with the State of Connecticut relying on gambling revenues to be able to run our state. I think the revenue is nice to have but we shouldn't have to rely on gambling in order to meet our budget. Competition is a good thing. It puts the burden on each individual casino to offer the best gambling experience to capture more visitors. Sure, people will try out the new casino in the area. But, they are going to go to the one that gives them the best experience.

The owners of the casinos need to handle this competitive threat. They need to continuously improve what they have and even consider improving the odds of winning for the gambler. The answer is not to build more and more casinos. We have enough right now. I'm not a gambler but I do visit the casinos to take in events such as concert performances and basketball games. Yes, I do drop a few dollars in the slot machines and take in a good meal, but I'm not looking at gambling as a source of income.

The State of Connecticut and, specifically, the elected state legislators, need to get their hands around spending. We need more control on spending and we need to stop spending in certain areas. We need to investigate and stop fraud. We need to get people back to work who are currently on unemployment. We need to stop people from spending their unemployment checks on gambling.

I have two children who are out on their own at the ages of 26 and 23. I've seen the threat gambling has been for them as they went through their college years. They are a targeted age group that are challenged with paying back their college loans. They don't need more places to gamble in the state that they live. There has to be other focus areas to bring people to Connecticut and I wouldn't be so proud to advertise that we have more casinos.

Right now, Connecticut is one of the most expensive places in the USA to live. Why is that? Is it because we do not have enough casinos? Or, is it because we have excessive expenses in certain areas that other states do not have? I don't know the answer to that but that is your job to understand as our state legislators. Please don't vote to add more casinos to our state. Put the pressure on the owners of the ones we have to figure out how to remain competitive. Yes, they did have a huge competitive advantage being one of the few in the area. And, they will lose some market share. But, that's business.

Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,

Mark Marschall
Somers, CT